

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Shannon McKay called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay; Councilmembers Eleanor Brodahl, Kathy Carlton, Kenneth Taylor, Everett Cole, Marc Spohr, Dale Wyman, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, Debbie Kudrna, and City Administrator Ehman Sheldon.

SECOND QUARTER REPORT FROM ADAMS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5

Fire Chief Clyde Fought provided the 2nd quarter report.

REIMBURSEMENT OF OFF DUTY OFFICERS

Police Chief Dunnagan advised that there have been issues at public dances, with large numbers of people attending. The current ordinance for public dances requires floor staff, door person and security guards for inside the building. There are no regulations for patrol outside the buildings. He advised that he is researching options for off duty patrol officers, paid by the sponsors of the public dance, for the outside area. He advised that the local taverns could apply for a cabaret license, which allow dances and he wouldn't suggest that off duty patrol officers be required for dances at those locations. Chief Dunnagan explained that the public dances are being promoted and 300 – 500 people are attending the events. He will bring back options for the Council to consider.

CHIEF DISCUSSION RELATIVE TO DISPATCH SERVICES

Police Chief Dunnagan explained that the Othello Police Department (OPD) currently has 6.5 dispatchers that operate 7 days a week; 24 hours a day. They provide dispatching to the Othello officers; Adams County Sheriff's panhandle area; EMS; and Adams County Fire District. Current revenues for dispatching service are approximately \$68,280. Four years ago, the State changed their funding and reduced all secondary PSAP centers, eliminating State funding to the OPD and we lost the designation as a secondary PSAP. Adams County is responsible to provide 911 dispatch services. The Adams County Commissioners have been reviewing options for their dispatch center and have held two public hearings to review their options, which includes: make no changes to the current dispatch services; contract out to a dispatch center outside the County; transfer dispatching services back to the City; or fund the center as planned by the County Sheriff's Department. He remarked on each of the options. To make no changes would work because the OPD has a good working relationship with all entities. It would require some significant expense to the OPD to replace some of the old equipment that is currently failing. He does not recommend contracting to an outside agency. They become a phone answering service and local funding would be outside the County and there usually is a lack of accountability and local representation. If the PSAP was transferred back to the City, it would cost to maintain the system. State PSAP funding would be available and the dispatch staff would need to increase. If the Sheriff's Department was allowed to proceed with their plan it would be the best choice. It wouldn't require transferring of equipment and duties; may create the need for additional personnel in Adams County, and it would assure the same dispatch process. Chief Dunnagan advised it would be an option for the City to join or contract with Adams County. He prefers to maintain a dispatch center in Othello. As of today, the Sheriff advised that the County Commissioners have authorized one additional dispatcher. This will not meet his needs to provide any additional dispatching. The Chief expects that we will be able to maintain the same contractual terms for dispatching with Adams County through the end of 2009.

Chief Dunnagan advised that it will be necessary to appropriate funding for dispatch equipment. If the City approves funding for a new dispatch radio system, it may be compatible with the County's system and could be transferred to Adams County if they took over all of the dispatching. Councilmember Cole advised that we have been told that the State was going to fund area wide 911 dispatch systems. It was to be performed by the Washington State Patrol offices (WSP) and all State funding would go into that program. Chief Dunnagan advised that would not

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preclude a community from having a local dispatch program, WSP would only perform all 911 calls. He advised that this plan is not in place.

Chief Dunnagan explained that all County 911 calls are initially answered in Ritzville and they enter it into the Spellman system and then transfer the call to Othello. All 911 calls can be routed to the OPD in emergency situations. He also advised that if dispatching was eliminated in Othello, the police department would still have to provide police services; fulfill public disclosures; filing; police reports; fingerprinting; etc. Mayor McKay advised that it's important to maintain a relationship with the County and he does not want it to be contracted outside the County.

Chief Dunnagan invited the City Council to view a new police vehicle that has had new equipment professionally installed.

2006 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE ADOPTION

Building Official Curt Andrews advised that his department began enforcing the new 2006 International Building codes today. There are very few changes and he recommends the following:

1. Do not require permits for projects valued under \$500
2. Require a roof snow load of 30 PSF with ice shield at eave
3. Implement grading and demolition permits for \$100 fee
4. Maintain the graduated fee structure with few changes
5. Combine plumbing and mechanical permits in the building permit fee

He advised that our building fees are very equitable and he suggested that the platting fee be increased to recoup some of the staff expense. The biggest change in the building code is the requirement for new fire sprinkler systems. He recommended that the plumbing and mechanical permit fees be included in the original building permit fee and explained that we would still have fees for changes to existing or installation of new plumbing appliances.

POOL FEE INFORMATION

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon presented the concession fees, developed by the pool committee. He explained that they also met with swim team representatives and recommend a fee be set for the swim team members at \$20 per team member. The swim team would provide their own life guards. If the members swim other times, they would pay the regular admission fee. Mr. Sheldon reported the pool has an 8' fence and they are reviewing their budget and if there is funding, they are considering purchasing a camera system.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor McKay advised that instead of Council committees providing minutes of their meetings, he suggested that the committee members provide reports at the Council workshops.

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 8:01 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk